

N.Y. City

FIFTEENTH
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Women's Prison Association,

OF NEW YORK.

"THE ISAAC T. HOPPER HOME,"

191 TENTH AVENUE.

NEW YORK:
WYNKOOP, HALLENBECK & THOMAS, PRINTERS,
No. 49 ANN STREET.
1860.

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N.Y. (city)

Sept. 3, 1900

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NEW YORK
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" J. M. HALSTED,	. . .	18 West 17th street.
" H. W. SMITH,	. . .	117 West 10th street.
" H. V. POOR,	. . .	81 St. Mark's Place.
" M. N. BEALE,	. . .	55 Fourth street.
" A. J. DAVIS,	. . .	" " "
" EDWARD COOPER,	. . .	8 Lexington avenue.
" J. G. HOLBROOKE,	. . .	East 20th street.
" WILLIAM PARSONS,	. . .	New York.
" VALENTINE HUSSEY,	. . .	72 East 29th street.
" DANIEL P. NOYES,	. . .	62 East 27th street.
MISS HANNAH UNDERHILL,	. . .	215 Madison street.
" E. MANNING,	. . .	Clinton Avenue, Brooklyn.
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MRS. HENRY CALHOUN,	. . .	49th street.

MISS HULL,	. . .	Matron.
" MANN,	. . .	Assistant.
J. R. LEAMING, M.D.,	. . .	Physician.
ALONZO P. JOHNSON,	. . .	Collector.

REPORT OF THE WOMEN'S PRISON ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK.

THE ISAAC T. HOPPER HOME.

OUR annual report for 1859 is due to our Subscribers and Donors. We owe to them an account of the Institution intrusted to our care—of the results of our labors during the last year.

But first, we would acknowledge, gratefully, the steadfast aid of those subscribers who have continued their subscriptions for a long series of years, thus giving the most unquestionable testimony to the value and success of this charity.

We would beg leave to suggest, that none but the managers of the financial concerns of a charitable institution can estimate the effect of annual subscriptions on its prosperity. These subscriptions can be relied on to support the Institution, and carry out its objects, without the liability to debt, and the dread of its danger and disgrace.

We would also offer our unstinted gratitude to our Donors. They are found among the merchants and professional men, whose ability, enterprise, and intelligence, give wealth to our city and dignity to our country, and most generous support to the multifarious forms and offices of charity.

Women who are the dispensers of large fortunes, as is fitting, and women with narrow incomes (all honor be to them) are among our contributors. The names of our benefactors will be found recorded in the proper place. We venture to designate, particularly, the large and unsolicited benefaction of Mrs. Margaret Livingston, continued and augmented from year to year, and to acknowledge the receipt of three hundred dollars, the earnings (we say it proudly) of a lady who has on two previous occasions given us from the harvests of her genius to the amount of nine hundred dollars. A brother-in-law of a member of our Executive Committee, who was wrecked in the Arctic, sent us a donation of fifty dollars, as a memorial of his sister's interest in our work—a touching offering on the mournful altar that affection consecrates to the dead.

And, to conclude our reference to exceptional donations, we re-

ceived one, most gratifying, as we have reason to believe it came from a person whom our society had rescued. The giver inclosed twenty dollars in the following note, addressed to one of the ladies : "Madam, I give the inclosed to the Home. I have earned it by faithful work. It is an act of faith—go forward, for He is with you, and you cannot fail.—Persevere." If the force of the testimony of this note be felt, we shall need to address no further prayer, nor reason to the religious public why they should contribute to succor the objects of our charity, repulsive as all must esteem them, and hopeless as most look upon them. Here is one reclaimed and restored, who turns to us a face bright with encouragement, and opens her hand to impart from the meagre earnings of her virtuous industry, aid to her still struggling sisters.

The Monthly Reports of the managers show, that the number of inmates received at the Home, there sustained during their novitiate, and thence sent to service, is about the average of preceding years ; our means do not enable us to enlarge our charity from year to year. Good order, good conduct, and productive employment have been uniformly maintained. To know what an achievement this is, our contributors should see the objects of their charity when they are committed to prison, victims of drunkenness, bloated, loathsome, solitary, friendless, hopeless ; and then they should visit them at the Home, and see them voluntarily restricted to its walls, with the light and smile of health returning to their countenances, working diligently at the order of the matrons, and controlled only by moral force. We do not say that all are thus docile and progressive. There are fruitless subjects, and they will be found in the Reports, under the heads "Discharged," or "Left of their own accord ;" and there are a few others, who, by misfortune, and not from their vices, have fallen into this hapless company, who if not fitted "to point a moral," would "adorn a tale." These are soon restored to society, and move respectably through the offices of life.

The monthly Reports prove that the economies of the House have been faithfully administered ; that frugality and comfort have been combined by our skillful matrons ; that the industry of the inmates has been well directed and productive, and that all the good has been effected that is attainable with our very limited means.

We have had the assistance of religious teachers on Sunday. They have been listened to respectfully, and with, we trust, good results.

The inmates have also had the benefit of loud reading from benevolent evening visitors, and occasionally the civilizing and refining influence of music, and they have shown that the delicate instinct that answers to this heavenly voice has not been extinguished by their rough lives. In confirmation of this statement we quote from one of the Monthly Reports of the Visiting Committee, the following passage: "Miss N——, who is a very sweet singer, sometimes sings for the women, which delights them exceedingly. It is surprising to see the interest manifested in the reading and singing by some of the most degraded of our inmates. They are, also, as a general rule, very attentive during the Sabbath services."

We adduce a few cases as more satisfactory vouchers of our success than any assertion. The two first are such as must excite general sympathy. Five years ago a very young woman was brought to the Home from Blackwells Island. She told her sad story pathetically. She spoke of her sufferings, her utter loneliness, as if she were a drifted weed on the ocean of life. She urged her desire to be trusted, and declared her resolve to do right. She was placed in a family where she gave unqualified satisfaction, so long as they needed her services. She was then transferred to another family where she still is faithfully performing her duties, bearing an excellent character, and possessing the respect and affection of her employers.

Another young girl *from the Island*, destitute and friendless, craving human sympathy and begging for it, was placed in a family where she remained for some months. Her employers removed from the city, and she returned to the Home well clothed, with some money, and a good character. Her mistress says: "I consider her a girl of excellent principles, and *very safe with children*."

Could a higher encomium be bestowed on a servant than that marked in italics, or less likely to be deserved by a discharged prisoner according to the general impression of the hopelessness of the convict's character?

M. A. J——, sent from the Home to a place in Massachusetts. Her employer, after a year's service, says, "She shall continue with me as long as she does as well as she has yet done."

M. A. B——, has lived in one place for five years, giving satisfaction to her employers. She writes to one of our managers letters full of gratitude for the benefit of our care. She asks advice for the future. She confesses to having backslidden on two occasions, and

professes a resolve to persevere in resisting temptation. If any are disposed to mark M. B.'s two delinquencies, and to smile incredulously at her hopeful future, let them turn their eyes to some acquaintance (perhaps relative), who, cushioned around with God's mercies, and with the excitements of intelligence and preventives of society, resolve and re-resolve, and fall and fall again. They will then better appreciate the effort and partial success of the poor convict.

M. F., an American woman, about 40, was sent last winter to a family in Massachusetts. More than six months after, a letter was received from her employer, saying that she had behaved uniformly well. This, her father said, could be told of no other six months of her life for the last thirty years !

S. L. was sent to Dutchess county. She has the testimony of her employers to her good conduct, and her persevering resistance to temptation, when permitted the excitement of a visit to friends in Albany.

M. W. was also sent, six months since, to a place in Dutchess county, where she still is. Her employer says : "She is the best help *we ever had.*" But for swelling our report, we could adduce many other similar cases ; but we trust there are already enough to convince every willing mind and touch every generous heart—more than enough for the careless reader, who will not take the time to ponder on the significance of the cases we have adduced.

[We gratefully acknowledge the great aid given to us by those who come to our institution for servants, and we may safely assert that they prove quite as good as the average taken from intelligence offices. One lady, who has had sempstresses and laundry women from us for a series of years, says they have proved her best servants. Another lady said : "I prefer an humble sinner to a proud saint."]

We add one letter written by a young woman of about three or four and twenty. She was for some time scarcely a subject of hope to the most sanguine. She is now in a family where she has been serving for the last eighteen months, and those who now see, for the first time, her healthful, serene, and pleasing countenance, can scarcely believe she has ever swerved from the innocence of childhood. The peace of recovered virtue is a "peace that passeth understanding." The letter is addressed to her employer during an absence last summer. Its chirography would grace any lady in the land ; and that, and the accuracy of the spelling and general correctness, are most gratifying proofs of the excellence of the schools to which our poorest have access :

“NEW YORK, August 29th, '59.

“Mrs. ——— I was not certain whether you wished that I should make some reply to the letter you and Miss ——— were so kind as to send ; so I inquired of Miss ——— and she said you would like me to write ; which I am the more desirous of doing, as I wanted to tell you that I have made a firm resolve never again to take the first drop of any intoxicating liquors. I wanted you to know this, because you have proved a true regard for my welfare, which I hope I may never forget. I have, in a truthful and serious manner, considered the whole of my former life and its results ; also, what my future must inevitably be if I continue drinking. The past has little in it but what I wish could be blotted entirely from my memory forever, and the future, should I live, must lead to an almshouse or lunatic asylum ; for I know that at times I have felt that I was becoming mad, if I have not been slightly so already. I am not quite sure that I ought to tell you these things ; but there is no one else in the world, I think, that I could speak more freely to than yourself, because I have no fear of being ridiculed or treated with scorn.

“I feel very thankful to you for your constant and patient kindness to me. There are few who would not become tired and disgusted by the same fault repeated at almost every chance. You forgave, again and again, and that without marring your forgiveness by a lecture, which, even if very kindly meant, I am not always apt to appreciate. I shall say no more on this subject, but let my actions prove that I am in earnest. I have seen my mother, and she seems to be getting along very nicely, in a very small business. * * * and * * * send their best respects to you and Miss ——— and will be very glad to see you both. We were all greatly pleased with Miss * * *’s very pretty and kind letter, and thank you both for thinking of us. Miss ———’s pets are all in excellent health, and shall be well attended to while she is away. Miss * * * is a very pleasant and industrious housekeeper, and a kind mistress, and all things seem to glide along quite smoothly. Still, all will be glad to see you back again as soon as possible.

“Hoping I have not offended by too much freedom, or wearied your patience, I subscribe myself, respectfully and gratefully,

“ * * * * *

We rest our claims to continued and extended support upon the facts we have stated ; it is useless to reiterate the detail of our importunate wants. What can we further say to enforce the solemn duty of "visiting the sick and in prison ;" to impress the joy of reclaiming the sinner, that "mercy twice blessed ?" We have from year to year told our wants, and they remain. We have a house, but still embarrassed by mortgage, and still insufficient for our purposes, because we have not the means to extend its facilities. We are compelled in our exigencies to resort to every expedient to meet inevitable expenses, but still we are grateful for the support we have, and we will struggle on courageously, with faith, and hope to maintain a charity whose worth we know, from years' experience ; and which, be it remembered, is the only one in this multitudinous city that offers a rescue and succor to the discharged female prisoner.

C. M. SEDGWICK,

First Director.

HOUSE REPORT FOR 1859.

Received during the year,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	121
Sent to service,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	53
“ to Hospital,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
“ to Workhouse,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
“ to Almshouse, -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
“ to House of Mercy, -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Left to provide for themselves,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Discharged, - :	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
Remaining, January 1st, 1860,	-	-	-	-	-	-	.	-	-	-	-	23

THE TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WOMEN'S PRISON ASSOCIATION, AND ISAAC T. HOPPER HOME.

From January 1st, 1859, to January 1st, 1860.

RECEIPTS.

Subscriptions, - - - - -	\$182 00
Donations, - - - - -	2,138 56
Work done by the inmates, - - - - -	694 75
Proceeds of Fair, - - - - -	774 91
Balance from last year, - - - - -	01
	<hr/>
	\$3,790 23

EXPENDITURES.

Provisions and Fuel, - - - - -	\$1,392 89
Household Articles, - - - - -	15 26
Dry Goods, - - - - -	144 26
Postage and Stationery, - - - - -	3 14
Travelling Expenses, - - - - -	9 95
Medicine, - - - - -	6 22
Working Materials, - - - - -	17 42
Salaries, - - - - -	502 25
Gas, - - - - -	32 30
Repairs, - - - - -	18
Plumbing, - - - - -	540 86
Commissions, - - - - -	51 45
Freight, - - - - -	8 63
Taxes on House, - - - - -	95 75
Water Tax, - - - - -	11 50
Gas Fixtures, - - - - -	1 25
Sink, - - - - -	20 00
Interest on Mortgage, - - - - -	420 00
Insurance, - - - - -	9 45
Printer, - - - - -	50 00
Fair Expenses, - - - - -	105 85
	<hr/>
	\$3,788 61
Balance on hand, Jan. 1st, 1860, - - - - -	\$1 62

A. J. H. FITCH,

Treasurer.

I have examined the additions and transfers of this account, and certify them to be correct, showing a balance in the hands of the Treasurer of \$1.62 dollars.

NEW YORK, Jan. 6, 1860.

J. S. GIBBONS.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIBERS.

Mr. Charles E. Butler, - - -	\$10 00	Mrs. Benj'm I. Howland, - -	\$2 00
Mr. Peter Cooper, - - -	10 00	Mrs. Henry Sedgwick, - - -	2 00
Miss Fanny Sabine, - - -	10 00	Miss Manning, - - -	2 00
Mrs. T. C. Doremus, - - -	5 00	Miss C. M. Sedgwick, - - -	2 00
Mrs. Daniel Trimble, - - -	5 00	Miss Ainslee, - - -	2 00
Mrs. Hasbrouck, - - -	5 00	Mrs. H. W. Smith, - - -	2 00
Mrs. Nathan Chandler, - - -	5 00	Mrs. J. M. Halsted, - - -	2 00
Mrs. Wm. M. Evarts, - - -	5 00	Miss C. M. Wheelwright - -	2 00
Mrs. Gaiteau, - - -	5 00	Miss A. Bloodgood, - - -	2 00
Mrs. S. W. Bridgham, - - -	5 00	Mrs. J. S. Gibbons, - - -	2 00
Mr. J. F. Melliss, - - -	5 00	Mrs. Merritt Trimble, - - -	2 00
Miss Anna K. Day, - - -	5 00	Miss Lucy Gibbons, - - -	2 00
Mrs. Charles Goodhue, - - -	5 00	Mrs. Valentine Hussey, - - -	2 00
Mrs. A. T. Stewart, - - -	5 00	Mrs. C. S. Francis, - - -	2 00
Mrs. H. W. Haydock, - - -	5 00	Miss Mickell, - - -	2 00
Mrs. Daniel Trimble, - - -	5 00	Miss C. F. Leggett, - - -	2 00
Mrs. Alfred Hall, - - -	5 00	Miss S. F. Leggett, - - -	2 00
Mrs. Robert Sedgwick, - - -	5 00	Mrs. Lang, - - -	2 00
Mrs. Daniel Y. Townsend, - -	4 00	Mrs. Clinton Graham, - - -	2 00
Mrs. Child, - - -	3 00	Miss Flora Foster, - - -	2 00
Mrs. Wm. P. Griffin, - - -	3 00	Miss Abby Burton, - - -	2 00
Mrs. Brown, - - -	3 00	Mrs. Louisa Osborn, - - -	2 00
Mrs. Holbrooke, - - -	2 00	Mrs. Benjamin Brower, - - -	2 00
Mrs. Wm. Parsons, - - -	2 00	Mr. Elsie Charlier, - - -	2 00
Mrs. Joseph Beale, - - -	2 00	Mrs. C. Curtis, - - -	2 00
Mrs. A. J. Davis, - - -	2 00	Miss Adelaide Curtis, - - -	2 00
Mrs. H. V. Poor, - - -	2 00	Miss Jane Sedgwick, - - -	2 00

DONATIONS IN CASH.

The Common Council, - - -	\$500 00	Mrs. Hyde, - - - - -	\$5 00
Mrs. F. A. Kemble, - - -	300 00	Mrs. Walter Underhill, - - -	5 00
Mrs. Margaret Livingston, - -	100 00	A Friend, - - - - -	5 00
Mr. Jos. Howland, Fishkill		Mr. Ludlum, - - - - -	5 00
Landing, - - - - -	100 00	Mrs. Borden, - - - - -	5 00
Mr. A. T. Stewart, - - -	100 00	Mr. Augustus Embury, - - -	5 00
Mr. C. W. Shipman, - - -	50 00	Mrs. Lemuel Smith, - - -	5 00
Female Association, - - -	50 00	Loeschik & Wesendanck, - -	5 00
Mr. Ephraim Williams, - - -	50 00	Mrs. Chas. C. Colgate, - - -	5 00
Mr. Richard Warren, - - -	50 00	Mr. Stephen Valentine, - - -	5 00
Mr. J. Ingram & Son, - - -	50 00	Mr. Lewis J. Warren, - - -	5 00
Mrs. Margaret Livingston, - -	50 00	Mr. John Wheelwright, - - -	5 00
Murray Fund, by W. R. T., -	50 00	A Friend, by Mrs. Doremus, -	5 00
Graham Estate, - - - - -	49 00	Mr. Robert Dillon, - - - -	5 00
Mrs. H. D. Cruger, - - - -	40 00	Mrs. Wyeth, - - - - -	5 00
Mrs. H. D. Cruger, - - - -	40 00	Mrs. Chas. B. Carpenter, - -	5 00
H. Collins and Friend, - - -	27 00	A Friend, - - - - -	5 00
Female Association, - - - -	25 00	Mr. A. R. Wetmore, - - - -	5 00
Mrs. J. D. Wolfe, - - - -	25 00	Mrs. Tathem, - - - - -	5 00
Mrs. Joseph Lawrence, - - -	25 00	Mrs. Chas. Miller, - - - -	5 00
Mrs. Tenney, - - - - -	20 00	Mr. Wm. C. Rogers, - - - -	5 00
Left at the Home by a Lady, -	20 00	Mr. Wm. H. Leggett, - - -	5 00
Mr. Beers, - - - - -	20 00	Mrs. Richard Warren, - - -	5 00
A Friend, by Miss Sedgwick, -	20 00	Cash, - - - - -	4 00
Henry B. Livingston, - - -	20 00	Cash, - - - - -	3 75
Mr. Robt. Haydock, - - - -	15 00	Cash, - - - - -	3 00
A. B. & D. Sands, - - - -	10 00	Cash, - - - - -	3 00
Mr. Jas. L. Schieffelin, - - -	10 00	Cash, - - - - -	3 00
Mrs. A. A. Low, - - - - -	10 00	Miss Carroll, - - - - -	3 00
28 Laight st., - - - - -	10 00	Halsted, Stiles & Co., - - -	3 00
Mrs. Chas. E. Butler, - - -	10 00	Mrs. Geo. Ireland, Sr., - - -	3 00
Mr. John Jay, - - - - -	10 00	A Friend, - - - - -	2 50
E. R. J., - - - - -	10 00	Mr. J. E. Mansell, - - - -	2 00
Mrs. Josephine Gibbs, - - -	10 00	Cash, - - - - -	2 00
Dr. Saml. Osgood, - - - -	10 00	Lender, - - - - -	2 00
A Friend, - - - - -	9 66	E. H. S., - - - - -	2 00
A Friend, - - - - -	7 00	A Friend, - - - - -	2 00
Mr. E. D. Sprague, - - - -	5 00	Cash, - - - - -	2 00
Cash, - - - - -	5 00	Mr. A. L. Condit, - - - - -	1 00
Mrs. S. Stewart, - - - - -	5 00	Mrs. C. C. Leigh, - - - - -	1 00
S. B. S., - - - - -	5 00	Lawsred, - - - - -	1 00
Gordon & Talbot, - - - - -	5 00	Mrs. Gilman, - - - - -	1 00
Mr. W. H. Fogg, - - - - -	5 00	Mrs. Thorp, - - - - -	1 00
Mr. D. Appleton & Co., - - -	5 00	A Friend, - - - - -	1 00
Mrs. Robt. Dillon, - - - -	5 00	Mr. R. D. Hart, - - - - -	1 00
T. C., - - - - -	5 00	Mrs. Patten, - - - - -	1 00
S. H. E., - - - - -	5 00	A Friend, - - - - -	65

DONATIONS IN GOODS.

Mrs. G. W. Emery, 1 box of Crackers.	New Year's Dinner, 1 Turkey, Mr.
Christmas Dinner, 1 Turkey, Mrs. Beal.	Myers.
" " 1 Turkey, Mrs. Davis.	New Year's Dinner, a Mince Pie, Mrs. Sackett.

NEW YORK
 SOCIETY LIBRARY

FORM OF A BEQUEST.

I give and bequeath unto "The Women's Prison Association and Home," the sum of _____, to be paid to the Treasurer for the time being, for the use of said Society.

DONATIONS

Will be received at the Bookstore of C. S. FRANCIS & Co.,
No. 554 Broadway.

The stated meetings of the Society are held the first Tuesday in each month, at 12 M., at the HOME, 191 Tenth Avenue.